

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

A dynamic photograph of two Texas A&M football players, Johnny Manziel and Mike Evans, celebrating on the field. Manziel, in a maroon jersey with the number 2 and the name 'MANZIEL', is jumping and holding a football. Evans, in a maroon jersey with the number 13 and the name 'TEXAS A&M', is jumping and holding a football. They are surrounded by a cheering crowd and other players in the background.

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MIKE EVANS PROPEL AGGIE
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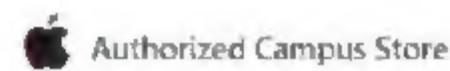
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On the Cover: Johnny Manziel and Mike Evans propel Aggie offense to new heights.
Photo by Rob Havens '88.



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Howdy Ags!

Fall has always been one of my favorite times of the year, with the beautiful colors of the leaves changing, the cool fall air and, of course, the sound of cheering fans and bands playing in high school and college football stadiums across the state. Growing up in West Texas, there weren't a lot of trees, and so now, a drive through the rolling hills of central Texas seeing all of the fall leaves is one of my favorite things to do—especially when you're used to dust storms and tumbleweeds.

Just like the seasons change, there have been a lot of changes here in Aggieland. Expectations have definitely changed! For years, we were excited to become bowl-eligible. Now the expectation is to play in tier one bowls and compete for national championships. We came into the conference hoping to compete; now we expect to win championships in every sport!

Changes on the gridiron have come in two forms. The football team has become a national force to be reckoned with, and on campus, the sounds of cheering fans have been replaced with the sounds of progress. Concrete being smashed, aluminum stands being twisted, and the ground being torn up by bulldozers are now the sounds ringing through the south side of campus. Replacing Johnny Football are construction workers racing around the field trying to meet hard deadlines set in place to get the field ready for next year's football season.

I'm a little sad to see the old Kyle Field go, but I'm really excited to see the new Kyle Field. I know change is hard sometimes, but when the new Kyle Field is unveiled and we get to start making new memories, it will all be worth it—just like the beautiful leaves fall away but the next spring brings new growth and fresh beginnings.

Gig'em Ags!

P.S. One thing that hasn't changed at all is the dominance of Coach G's Aggie Women's Soccer Team. After claiming a share of the regular season title, the Ags went on to win the SEC Tournament Championship! Congrats, ladies!



Rob '88

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snapshot

Opportune

Hit





perfect drive

Derel Walker puts the Aggies up 7-0 with this first-drive-catch against Vanderbilt. Manziel was 10-10 on this drive, including this 8-yard completion to Walker for his first touchdown of the day. Derel had four catches in the game, including a 14-yard score in the 3rd quarter that effectively put Vandy away. The Aggie receiving corps had 376 yards receiving and five TDs against the Commodores.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.

bringing his “A” game

Malcome Kennedy was thrust into the spotlight last year after catching the game-winning TD pass that beat the #1 Alabama Crimson Tide. This year Kennedy was an outstanding performer again, catching six passes and scoring three TDs against Bama. The Ags scored more points against the Tide defense than the other seven teams they have played so far this season combined.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.









mvp

Just 16 months removed from the bump at Olsen Field, Michael Wacha led the St. Louis Cardinals to the biggest stage in baseball, the MLB World Series. The rookie sensation tallied four post-season wins, becoming the first Aggie pitcher in Texas A&M history to have a playoff win from the mound. Wacha also collected a game two win in the World Series, and with two wins was named the MVP of the NLCS. AP photo courtesy of Aggie Athletics

billylucci's TOP 44 IN '13

Quarterbacks (1)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Varshaun Nixon	Lake Travis	5-10-185	

Running Backs (5)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Varshaun Nixon	Lake Travis	5-10-185	
2	Mike Davis	Leander	5-10-185	
3	East Stockton	East Stockton	5-10-185	
4	Dante DeCesaro	Fulshear	5-10-185	
5	Sammy Perine	Houston	5-10-185	

Wide Receivers (5)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Alonzo Highsmith	Converse	5-10-185	
2	Davion Bell	Southside	5-10-185	
3	KD Cannon	South Pheasant	5-10-185	
4	Tyler Bercs	Southside	5-10-185	
5	Lozano Lopez	Southside	5-10-185	

Linebackers (8)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Hoza Scott	La Porte	6-3-220	
2	Devin Gandy	Southside	6-3-220	
3	Zach Whitley	North	6-1-210	
4	Josh Walker	Galler	6-1-210	
5	Quincy Harris	Southside	6-1-210	
6	Steve Hays	Southside	6-1-210	
7	Sam S. Jones	Southside	6-1-210	
8	Cameron Hampton	Southside	6-1-210	

Defensive Ends (1)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Devon Johnson	Southside	6-1-210	

Defensive Ends (4)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Myles Garrett	Arlington Martin	6-4-235	
2	Devon Johnson	Southside	6-1-210	
3	Cody Rogers	Southside	6-3-215	
4	Jarrett Johnson	Seven Lakes	6-3-225	

Cornerbacks (6)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Nick Harvey	RH Travis	5-11-180	
2	Travis Davis	Southside	5-11-180	
3	Armani Watts	Northside	5-11-185	
4	Cedric Collins	Skyline	5-10-185	
5	Devin Johnson	Southside	5-11-185	
6	Cameron Johnson	Northside	5-11-185	

Safeties (6)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Devin Gandy	Southside	5-10-185	
2	Dylan Sumner-Gardner	West Mesquite	5-10-180	
3	Travis Davis	Southside	5-11-180	
4	Allen Edwards	Southside	5-11-180	
5	Devin Johnson	Southside	5-11-185	
6	Jordan Shorty	Southside	5-11-185	

Defensive Tackles (4)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	DeShawn Washington	Nederland	6-3-275	
2	Devin Johnson	Southside	6-1-210	
3	Devin Johnson	Southside	6-1-210	
4	Devin Johnson	Southside	6-1-210	

Offensive Linemen (4)

Rank	Name	High School	2012	2013
1	Kealin Davis	Blueview Centennial	6-6-285	
2	Koda Martin	Manvel	6-5-265	
3	Devon Johnson	Southside	6-5-265	
4	Jordan Price	Southside	6-6-290	



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5 STAR DEFENSIVE END MYLES GARRETT COMMITTS TO AGGIES

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The nation's number seven player, defensive end Myles Garrett, has decided to play in Aggieland. The 6'5", 247 pound Arlington Martin product chose Texas A&M over Alabama, Ohio State, ICU and Florida State. Garrett sees himself as the missing piece that the Aggies are in need of to complete their championship caliber team. "[The Aggies] are definitely going up [in the SEC]," said Garrett. "Right now, they are lacking some pass rush. That's all they really need to complete their team."

The Lone Star State's top prospect will join his sister, Brea Garrett, who already attends A&M and currently throws shot put for the Aggie Track & Field team. Myles is sure to see early playing time as he brings an amazing skill set to the position, already possessing the physicality and tools he'll need to be successful at the next level. He's a very intelligent player who hustles and has shown incredible speed around the edge by blocking five kicks in the first six games this year.

Not only will Myles improve the Ags' defensive line the minute he steps onto the field, he is also the kind of player that will attract the nation's best talent. Defensive prospects looking for a school to highlight their skills will want to play alongside him. He even makes his teammates raise their level of play. According to Martin's head coach, "Right now, he's unblockable! We've had some great players here that have wreaked havoc and done some great things, but Myles Garrett is so quick off the ball. He is so explosive, and he is elevating everyone's play around him."

So far this season, Garrett has fifteen sacks, twenty three tackles for loss, thirteen hurries, and three forced fumbles. He looks like a man amongst boys on film as he has been terrorizing opposing offenses all year. Coach Wager said, "He's a freak!" when talking about his dominance on the gridiron. "He's not just a great player, he's a great kid." Coach Sumlin, Coach Snyder, and the rest of the staff will be anxious to see Myles run out onto Kyle Field.



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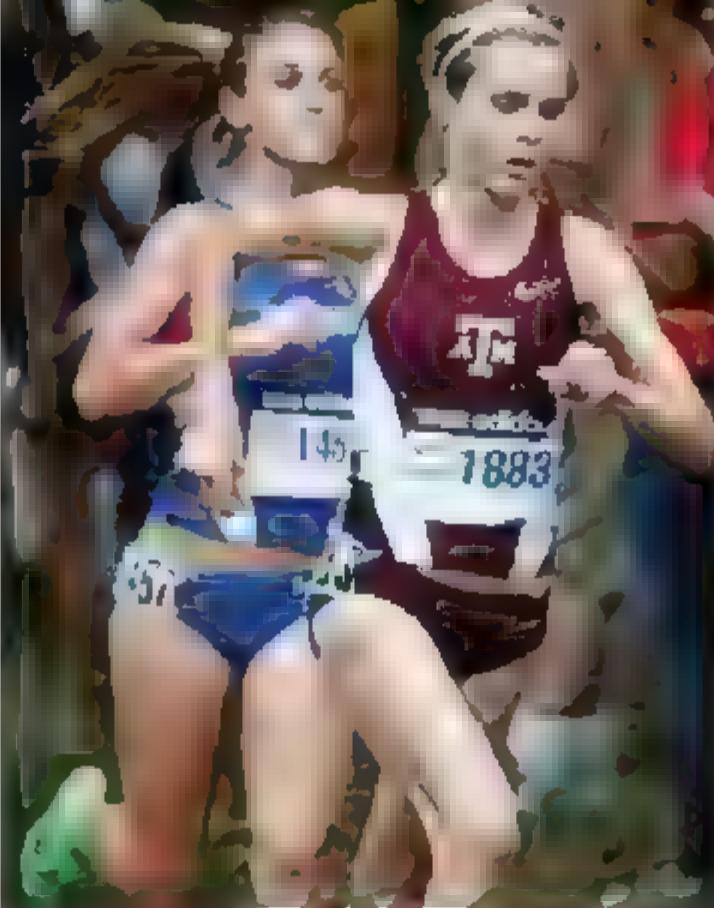
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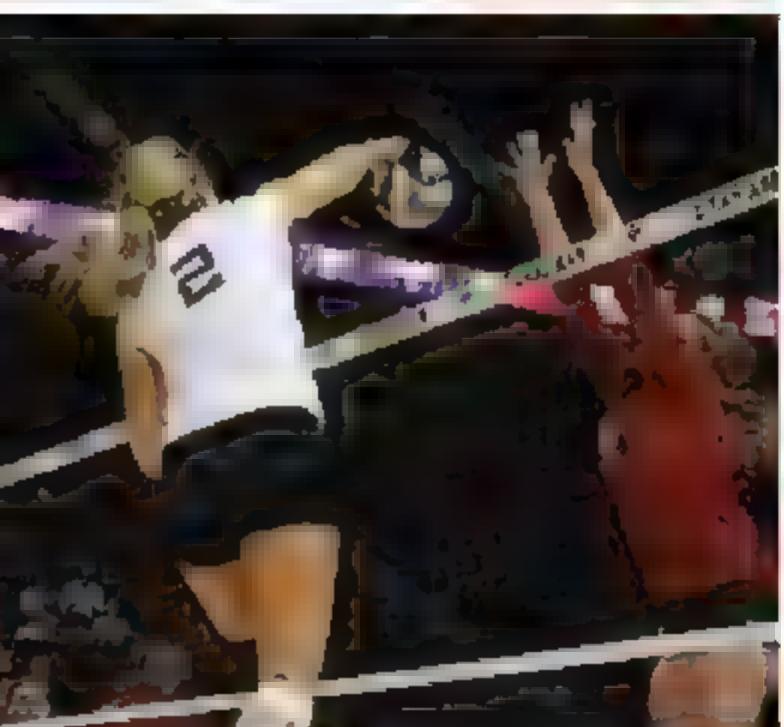
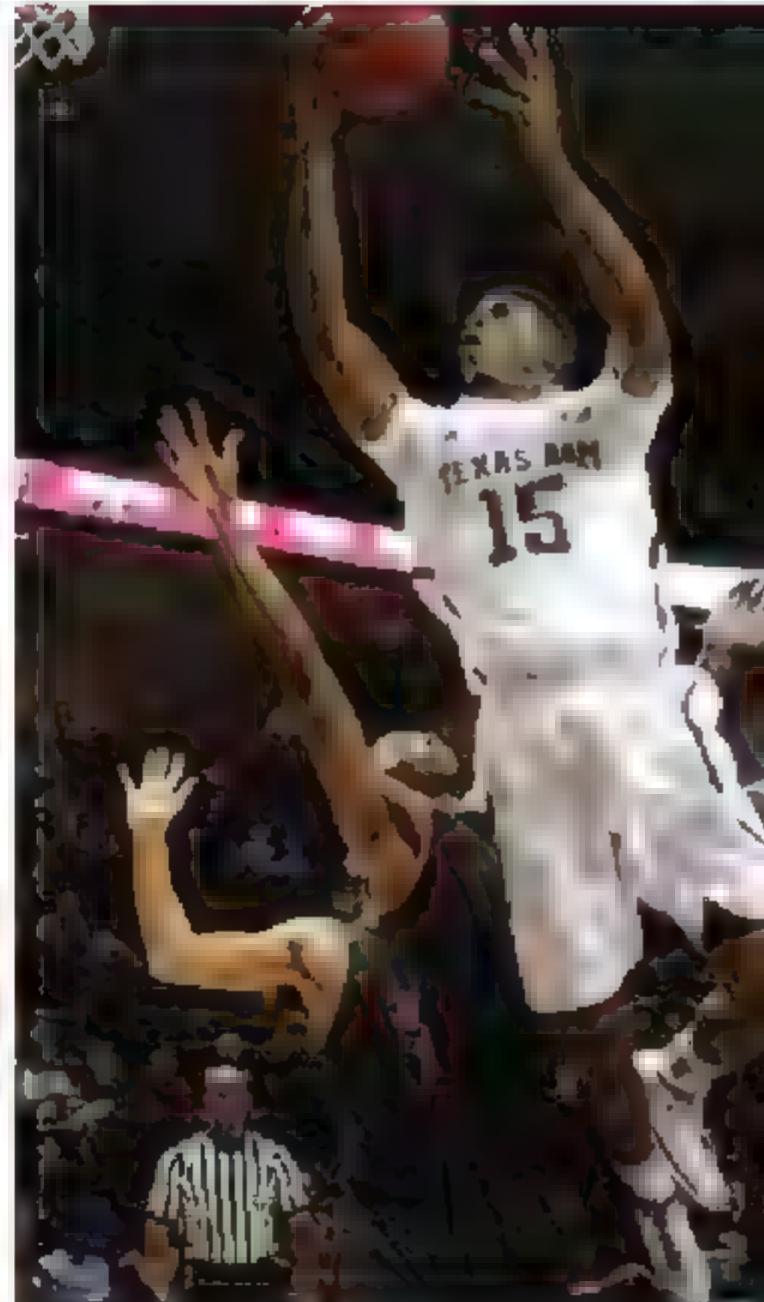
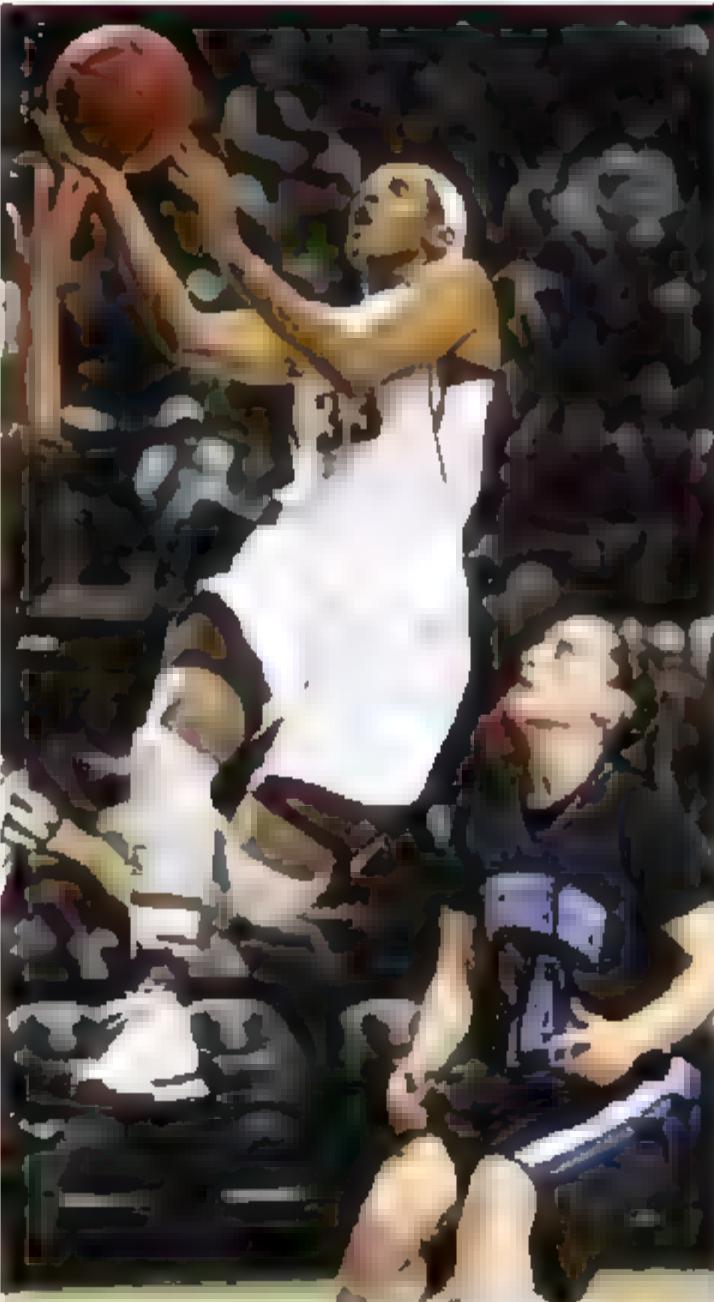
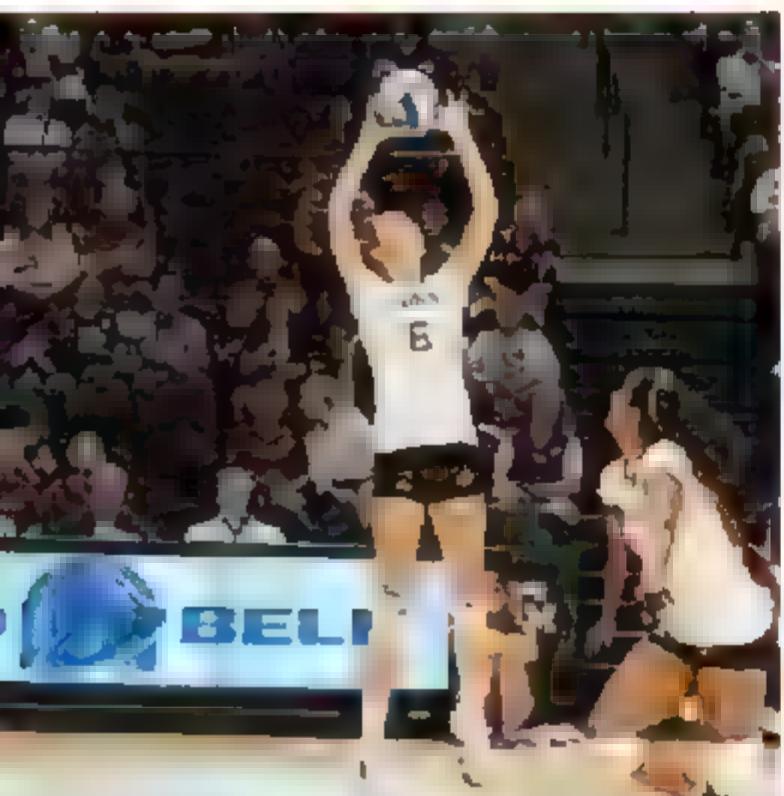


(women's swimming & diving) In the first regular season competition of Division I sports between A&M and Texas since the Aggies left the Big 12, the women's swimming and diving team defeated the Longhorns in a meet that came down to the final event. Needing a first and third finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay in the final race, the Aggies did exactly that, sending the Horns home in defeat. **(baseball)** Aggie Baseball competed in their annual Fall World Series as the Plowboys defeated the Farmers in the best of three series. The Plowboys took game one 10-3, while the Farmers came back to even the series in game two, winning 4-3 and setting up a winner-take-all situation in game three. The two squads battled to a one-to-one game that came down to a game winning walk-off hit in the bottom of the last inning, giving the Plowboys bragging rights for the rest of the year. The Aggies will open the regular season February 14th against Northeastern at Blue Bell Park. **(men's tennis)** In the only home event of the fall, the men's tennis team took advantage of the great competition and a rained-shortened weekend to get some good experience against the University of Illinois and Harvard. The Aggies won six of eight matches in doubles and five of eight in singles on the first day, while winning five of nine in singles and zero of four in doubles on day two.



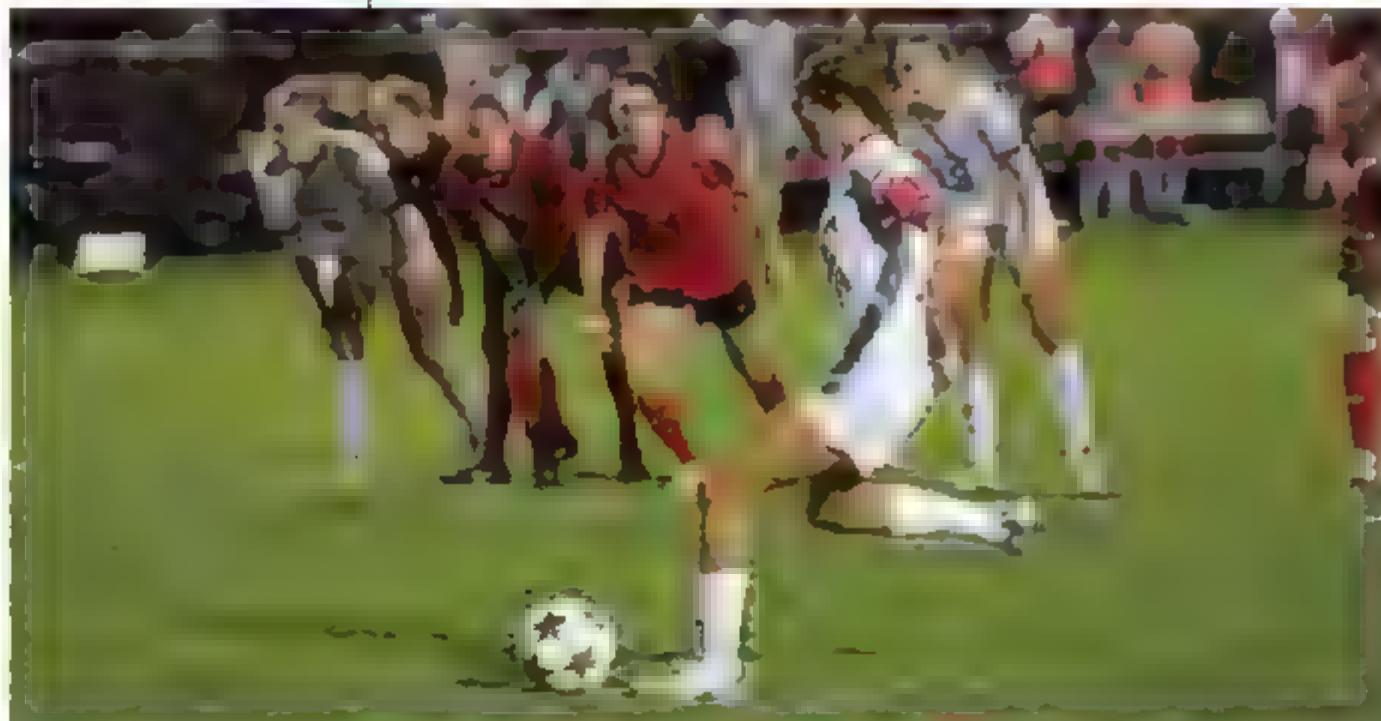
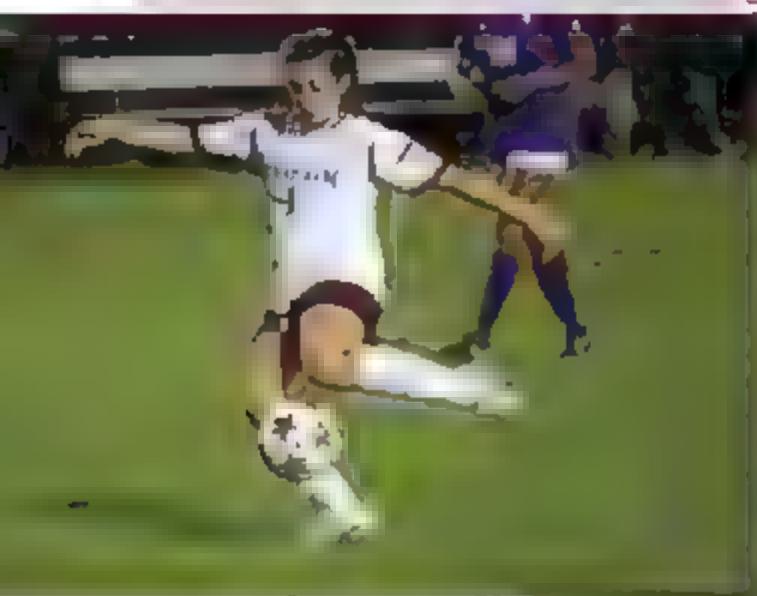


(equestrian) The Texas A&M equestrian team is 1-0 in the SEC as they began this season's conference schedule against the No. 3 South Carolina Gamecocks at home. In a back-and-forth affair, the Aggies triumphed over USC on the final ride of the day to clinch the win 10-9. **(cross country)** Texas A&M's women's cross country team had a historic second-place finish in the SEC Championships. This was the best conference finish in the program's history, with the previous best being third place on five different occasions. The Aggies will compete in a regional meet next. **(men's basketball)** Coach Kennedy introduced a new looking 2013-2014 men's basketball team at their first exhibition game against UTPB. The Aggies looked more athletic and longer, pushing the ball up the court while defeating the Falcons 80-70. Four players led the team in double figures, and the Aggies attacked the rim all night. The men opened the regular season November 8th against Buffalo. **(volleyball)** The Aggie volleyball team has battled through the first half of this conference season showing a lot of heart and gaining much needed experience for this young team. They look to use that experience to finish strong in the second half and try to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament. **(women's basketball)** The Aggies' women's basketball team came out of the chute firing on all cylinders as they took care of Oklahoma City in their first exhibition game 103-50. The Aggies had six players in double figures and showed great depth as both starters and bench players contributed to get the win. The Ags open the season on November 11th vs. North Texas.





(women's soccer) The Aggie soccer team delivered a championship performance on the last day of the regular season to bring home the first SEC Championship for women's soccer to A&M. Battling their arch rival, the LSU Tigers, the Aggies knew that the title was on the line. The women beat the Tigers 3-2, giving the Aggies a conference record of 9-2-0 and a share of the title with the Florida Gators, who also finished with 27 points.





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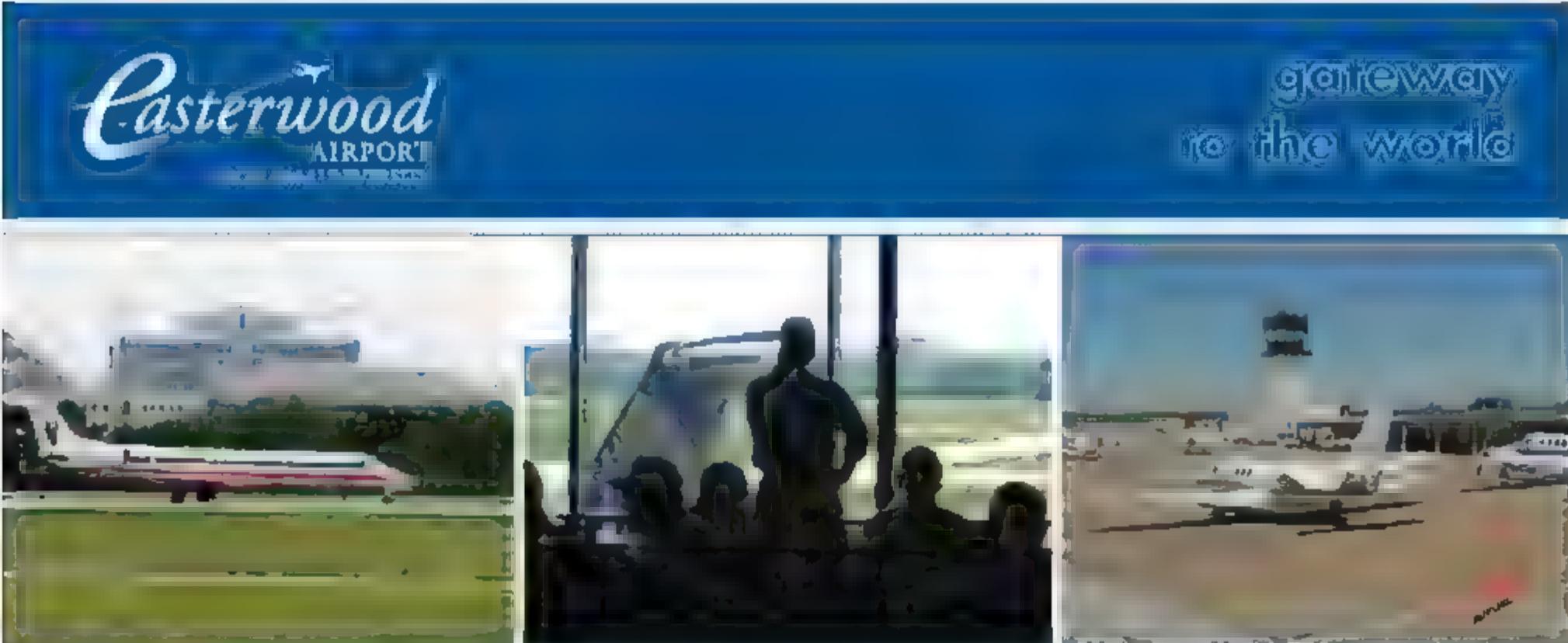
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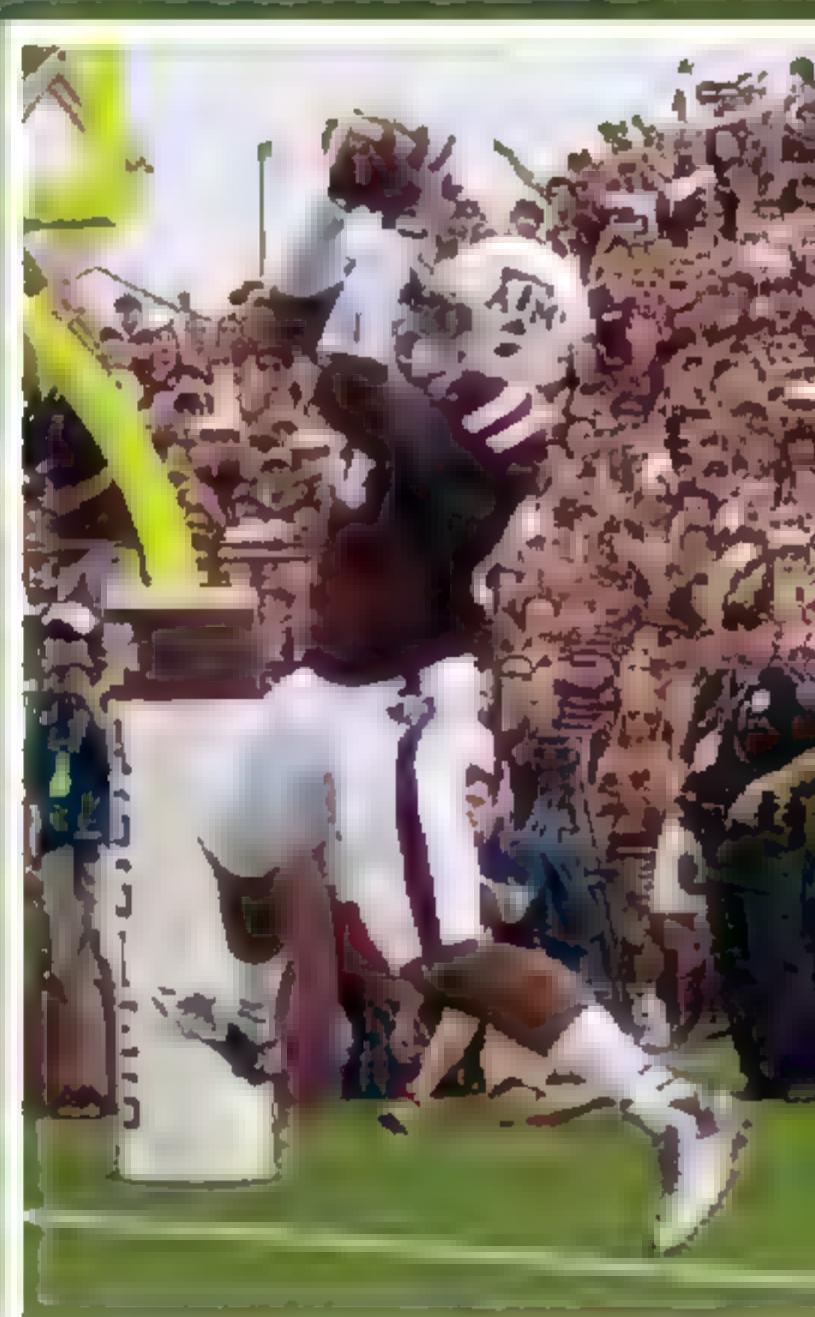
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[GAME 3: ALABAMA 49, A&M 42]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



There was plenty of hype leading up to the Aggies' big game vs. Alabama. Billed as the "Game of the Century" at Kyle Field, the Ags were looking to make history by dethroning the two-time defending national champion. The beginning of the game looked promising as the team jumped out to an early two-touchdown lead and the offense was firing on all cylinders. But the talented Bama team turned things around and scored 35 unanswered points to take control of the game. Johnny Manziel would not let the Aggies go away quietly as he led them back in a furious fourth-quarter comeback that fell just short and the Aggies were defeated 49-42. Johnny Manziel threw for 464 yards and five TDs. Mike Evans had 279 yards receiving on seven catches.

[GAME 4: A&M 42, SMU 13]



▲ PHOTO OF THE GAME



Showing the heart of a champion, Texas A&M bounced back vs. SMU in week four. Manziel accounted for 346 yards and 3 touchdowns in a little more than a half as the team knocked out SMU by a score of 42-13. Johnny threw for 244 yards and a touchdown while adding 102 yards and two touchdowns on the ground. Ben Malena also had a stellar day, rushing for 71 yards and two scores. Deshazor Everett sparked the defense by returning a fumble by the Mustangs for 12 yards and a touchdown. Matt Joeckel got in on the action, replacing Manziel in the third quarter and throwing for 63 yards before Sumlin brought in true freshman Kenny Hill to finish up the game.

[GAME 5: A&M 45, ARKANSAS 33]

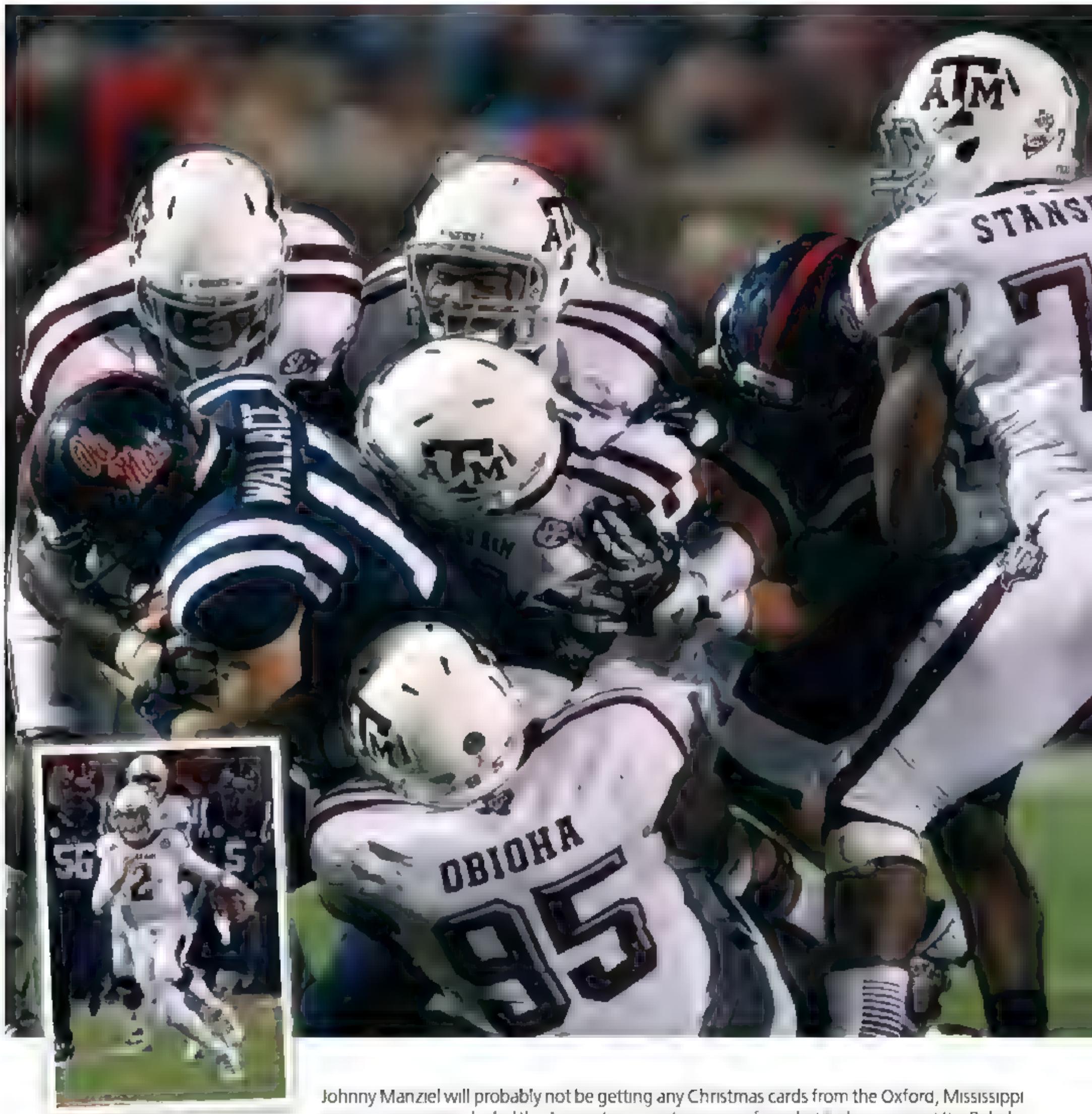


▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



After enjoying the confines of Kyle Field for the first four games, the Aggies made their first road trip of the year to Fayetteville, Arkansas to take on the Razorbacks. The rainy weather didn't slow down the Aggies; instead, it allowed Coach McKinney to show the country how well the team can move the ball on the ground. The Ags rushed for 150 yards in the second half alone, putting together a 68-yard touchdown drive with all eight plays coming on the ground. Trey Williams led all rushers with 83 yards on nine carries, including a touchdown. Manziel was 23 of 30 passing for 261 yards and 59 yards rushing. The Aggies held off the pesky Hogs to take a 45-33 win on the road.

[GAME 6: A&M 41, OLE MISS 38]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Johnny Manziel will probably not be getting any Christmas cards from the Oxford, Mississippi area as, once again, he led the Aggies to an exciting come-from-behind win against the Rebels, 41-38. The Aggies held a slim 14-10 lead at halftime and seemed poised to win at 21-10 in the third quarter, but Ole Miss would not go away, and both teams combined to put up 41 points in the fourth quarter. As the Aggies trailed 38-31 midway through the fourth quarter, Johnny Football engineered a 75-yard drive that he finished himself with a six-yard touchdown run to tie the game at 38. After a huge stop by the Aggie defense, the Aggies had one more courageous drive that culminated in a walk-off field goal by Josh Lambo to beat the Rebels as time expired. Johnny Manziel was 31 of 39, 346 yards passing, 113 yards rushing, and 2 TDs.

[GAME 7: AUBURN 45, A&M 41]

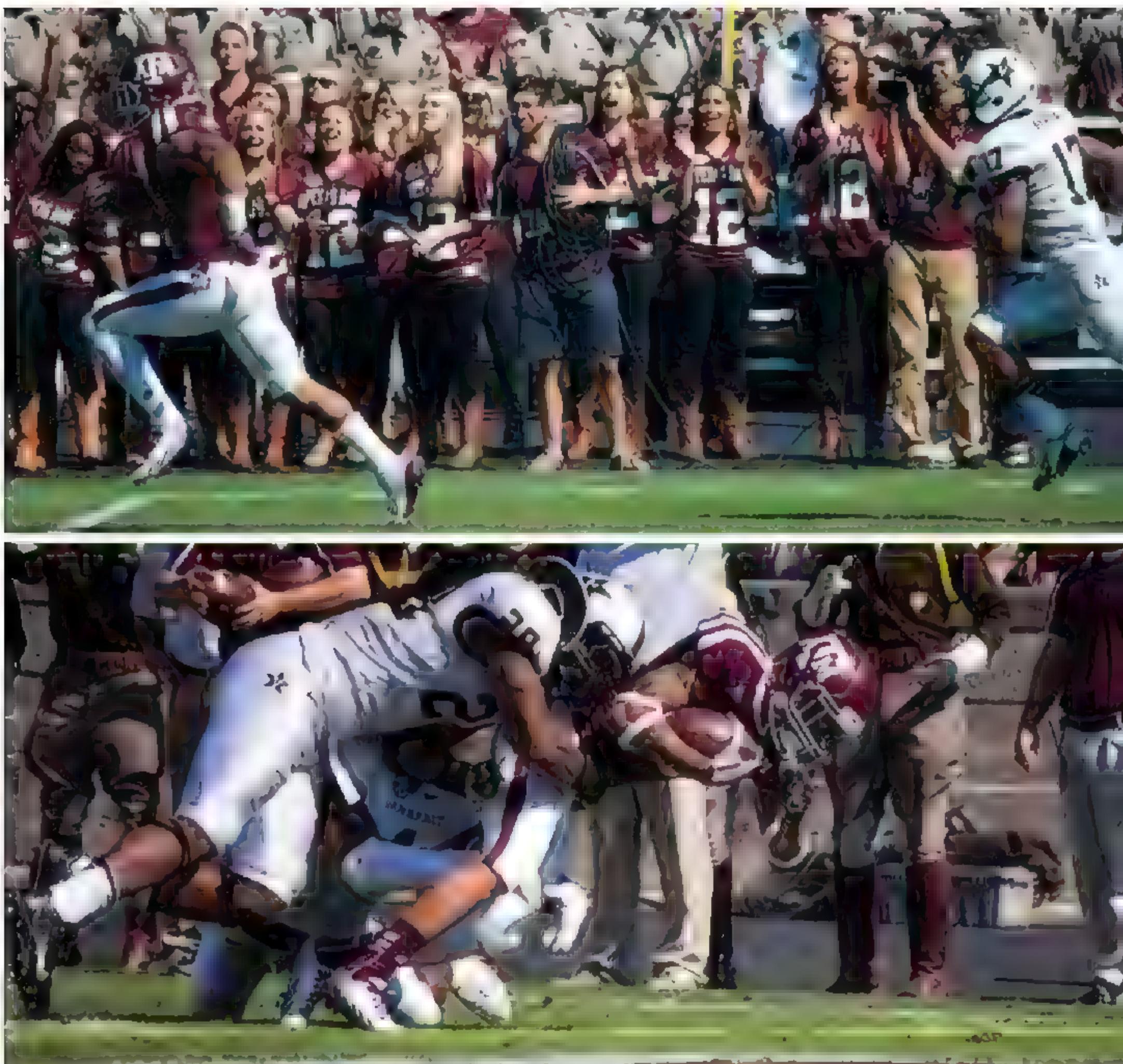


▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



Mike Evans had a school record 287 yards receiving and four touchdowns, but it wasn't enough as the Aggies fell just short of beating the feisty Auburn Tigers, losing 45-41 in week eight. Evans' mind-boggling numbers look like PlayStation stats, as the second year player became the first Aggie in school history to have two 200-yard receiving games in a career. This game, however, was highlighted by an injury. Johnny Manziel left the game after being tackled on an eight yard carry early in the fourth quarter, silencing the crowd as he left the field to seek treatment and be evaluated. The Heisman winner returned two series later in a Willis-Reed-like moment, retaking the field to a standing ovation. Manziel marched the team down the field 75 yards and scored on a one-yard touchdown to give A&M a 41-38 lead. The Aggie defense was unable to keep the Tigers out of the end zone, though, and Auburn went back on top 45-41. The Aggies did have one more drive, which almost ended in miracle fashion, but a blown horse collar call and a sack on fourth down ended the drive and resulted in the team's second loss of the season.

[GAME 8: A&M 56, VANDERBILT 24]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

Week nine was tough for Aggie fans as they waited to see if the injury Johnny Manziel sustained vs Auburn would keep him out of the game against the Commodores. The 86,584 fans erupted in applause as Johnny took the field. Johnny kept them clapping as he proceeded to dissect the Vandy defense, going 10 for 10 passing in the first drive that culminated in an eight yard pass to Derel Walker for a 7-0 lead. The crowd grew even louder when the Aggie defense got a three and out on the ensuing drive and the Dores were forced to punt. Howard Matthews' pick 6 to start the second half was the play of the game, and it shifted the momentum back to the Aggies. The offense generated 558 total yards, while the defense limited Vanderbilt to only 329. Pretty much every Aggie got to play on this day as the Aggies rolled to a 56-24 win. Johnny Manziel was 25 of 35 and 305 yards passing with four TDs. Malcome Kennedy had eight catches for 83 yards, while Derel Walker and Mike Evans had two TD receptions apiece.



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GARY BLAIR

Pre
Season
38

Aggie Women's Basketball Season

With Kelsey Bone gone, talk about the challenges down low for the upcoming season.

We do not have a proven scorer inside. We're replacing 28 points and 16 rebounds off of two kids who played an average of 58 minutes a game. Karla Gilbert played 12 minutes a game and that's it for our basketball team, but you have to start somewhere. The offense still works, the players are good enough; all they have to do is use the offense to their advantage. Our guards can get them the ball, but this might be more of a guard-oriented team early in the season 'til we develop Karla, Rachel Mitchell and the two junior college players.

What have you seen from Karla coming in to be that Inside force?

I think she doesn't want to miss the opportunity. Like a lot of kids that are aspiring to go to the next level, this is sort of their contract year. Is the WNBA going to look at them? Is Europe going to look at them? Or is she going to use her degree? The one thing she wants to do is leave her legacy that she was a captain her last year and led this team to that next level to our ninth straight NCAA Tournament. She wants to make sure it didn't slow down just because she became the focal point. I think this is Karla's year. She comes from a great bloodline. Her dad was a great player here in the late 80's. Her mother played high school ball here and then at North Texas State. Her brother is playing football at Colorado this year and they have a baby in the family coming up.

Do you still get excited about the new season and answering all the unknowns that a new season brings?

I do. At our first practice I was like a kid in a candy store, even though I only had one freshman, two jucos, one transfer, and a walk-on. Those are the new kids that I got a chance to put the A&M style in, and all of a sudden, they're picking it up. But, we're really going to need this first month of practice. We need to stay healthy. We have to have leadership, and that's something we'll probably have to do by committee early on just due to the youth of our program as far as experience.

Who has really stepped up and developed during the off-season?

Courtney Williams. She started for us the last month of the season. She really came into her own and continued it all summer. I think this is a kid that's got the same skill set that Tyra White had, but I think she can create her shot even more than Tyra did. What we need for her to do is learn what a good shot is and when it's time to pass up the hard shot because we have other kids that can score. But I'm expecting a breakout year for her. I really like the emergence of our two young point guards, Jordan Jones and Curyce Knox. I think they're exciting; they can fly down the court. They're going to make mistakes, but that always happens when you've got a sophomore and a redshirt freshman. So, we'll be throwing a few balls into the stands, but we're going to be exciting the stands by how fast the pace that we're going to play this year will be.





SECOND YEAR VETERANS

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Alex Caruso

Although you played a lot last year, now you're a sophomore and not a freshman. How are you going about being even more of a leader on the court?

Coach has talked to me about that and talked to a few of us during the summer about taking on a leadership role. We might be underclassmen, but on the team we are upperclassmen; we are "seniors". We've played a good amount of minutes and good amount of time on the court. We know what it takes and what kind of effort, energy, and toughness that we need to bring. He kind of harped on accountability earlier. It's accountability for us to come back and set the mark and standard for the rest of the players

Now that most of the players are Coach Kennedy's recruits, do you think the style will change?

It helps that we have more athletic players out on the wings and guys that can run up and down. We will probably play a little smaller than we have in the past. I don't know if it's change, but it's starting to form into what Coach Kennedy wants to do and how he wants to play

What have you done in the off-season and where will fans see the most improvement and development in your game?

From the beginning of summer, our coaches have told us that we need to be a better shooting team. We were one of the last in the SEC, putting up 3s, making 3s, and just overall field goal percentage. We've put an emphasis on that this summer. So, I think personally, a lot of my teammates and I have just been shooting, shooting, and shooting this whole summer. I think the offensive game for a lot of our players, including myself, is coming around.



Fabyon Harris

Is there anything really different that we are going to see this year, as opposed to last year's team?

This year's team, we are all going to play together. It's not going to be a one-man show like last year. This year we have Alex Caruso, Kourtney Roberson, Jordan Green, a few of the freshman, and all of the other players. We are all going to contribute and help each other out

Who are some of the newcomers that have caught your eye so far?

Davonte Fitzgerald and Jamal Jones, who are both my roommates, and Tavario Miller. Everybody's just working hard; they are working hard to prove themselves. To keep working hard, they are going to have to stay in the gym; I'll be in the gym with Jordan and everybody else. Just keep working hard, impressing the coaches, and get out there to get some minutes

What can we see different in you?

You're going to see me give 110 percent every time I'm out there. Diving for loose balls, talking trash, I'm going to be doing it all this year because this is my last year. I can't get a year back, so I'm just going to give it my all

J-Mychal Reese

With just one year of experience, you know the system better than most of the team. Are you speaking up more and trying to show guys what to do?

Yeah, I'm trying to be more of a leader. My coach is on me about being more of a leader, talking more—because I'm not a talkative person—but they want me to talk more. I'm a point guard so that's what I have to do. I'm working on that.

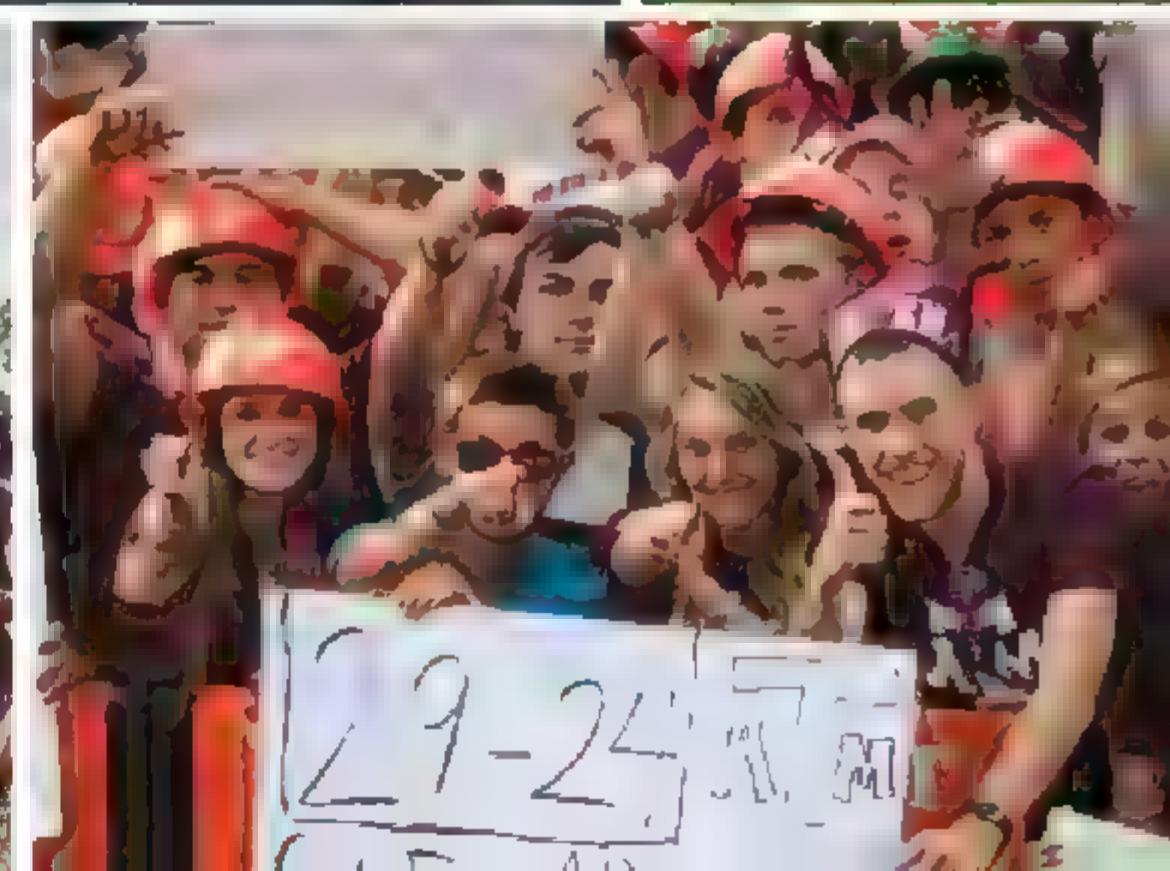
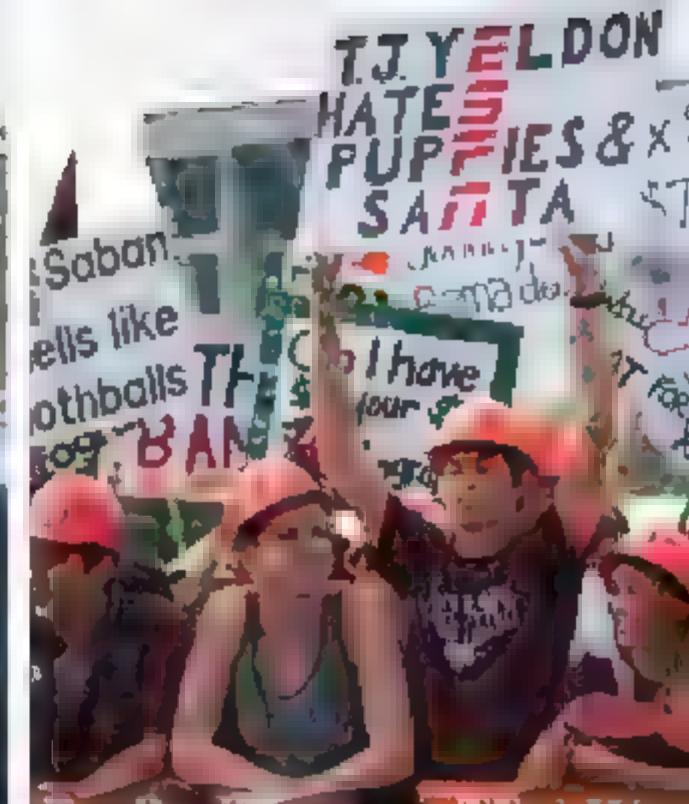
Talk about taking over where Elston was and where you fit in as a scorer.

That comes from being more aggressive, looking for my shot more, and being ready to shoot when guys kick the ball out to me. I've been working on my jumper, just being more confident with shooting 3s and all that.

What is the difference in high school and college ball?

There is a huge difference. The game is a lot faster, you've got to play hard each and every possession, and you can't take any plays off. Guys are bigger, stronger, faster. In high school I was one of the biggest, strongest and fastest, but when you get here on this level, there are guys like that everywhere, so you have to separate yourself some other way





AN INTERVIEW WITH MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH BILLY KENNEDY

Talk about the difference from last year's team to this year's team.

I think we have more length on the perimeter, guys with a little more size. Offensively, we've got some guys who can make shots and score, so I'm hoping that will make us a better offense team. We don't put a guy on the floor that we think can't help us in some way. So there will be a lot more balance from that standpoint.

How much more aggressive do you think this team can be with that element of offense?

I've said we don't yet have a best player, I don't think, but we don't have any bad players. We have a good group. Trying to figure out who's best this early is hard to do, but I'm excited I think we have more depth, more athleticism. We also have more inexperience, talk about bringing in six guys that haven't played at this level.

The first few practices have been defensive minded. You're losing a lot of scoring with Elston, but you're focusing on defense. What's the background with that?

That needs to be our calling card. It's been the base of my program that we're out doing. We've got more offense 1 through 11 or 12; however, since I've been here, balance-wise, we've got more offensive minded players. We've got to be able to stop somebody and that's my biggest concern at this point, being better defensively. We did a poor job on the glass last year, and we need to do a better job defending the 3-point line.

With the new roster, all the length and athleticism, how is the style of play going to change on offense?

We've got perimeters of fours. We'll play four guards more than we've played in the past, starting from the beginning. With David, Labo and Turner last year, over the past two years, we've had some post guys who are good around the basket. We've got some guys who

can make threes. We need to utilize our strength with having long guys, 6'7", 6'8" guys who can face up and make a three, so I think we'll spread the four a bit more than we did in the past.

How comfortable are J-Mychal and Fabyon this year after a full year of your system?

Again, last year was their first year. They know what to expect. Fabyon averaged 13 points, almost 14 points a game in his first year in the SEC. So, playing the point guard spot, playing off the ball, I expect good things out of both of those guys.



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KICKIN' IT OUT WITH SHEA GROOM

BY ROB HAVENS '88

How long have you been playing soccer?

I've been playing soccer probably since I could walk. Mom and Dad just put me in the local rec league, co-ed probably, when I was about four.

Why did you come to A&M?

Luckily, I was really blessed to be able to visit a lot of amazing universities, but the second you come on this campus, it's just something different than you find all over the country. The atmosphere at Ellis Field is so different and is amazing for the women's game. I just wanted to be able to play in front of a crowd of people. I love Texas and all of the sweet people and the nice hospitality.

What's your favorite A&M tradition?

I love wildcat and sawing them off, just because people don't know what it is half the time; I'm over here like, "Yeah 'A'" and "Whoop!"

Tell us about what you can hear when you're on the field.

Can you hear people yelling comments from the crowd?

For the most part my adrenaline is going, but I think I definitely hear the crowd, and I think it plays a big role in how we play. We obviously have a great record at home, and when there are more fans and they are yelling and cheering, it really gets us going and really affects the way that we play. For the most part, I hear most of what people say and I'll smile or give a thumbs-up, but I also just try to stay zoned into the game as much as possible.

Does it hurt when the ball hits your head?

Most people think it does, and if you just kind of let the ball hit you, it will really sting. It doesn't make sense, but if you hit it and get more force behind it, it doesn't hurt at all.

When you're on the road, can you hear the crowd?

Yeah, definitely, but there's not really a place like Ellis Field. They're not really that close to you or they're just on one side, so I wouldn't want to play here. On the road you still hear people but just kind of from a distance.

What is your favorite—doing a header or a one-timer?

I would say I like heading the ball a lot. One time volleying is fun, but it's hard to do and hard to do consistently. But heading the ball, I just kind of feel like I'm flying; people usually don't expect me and the Meghan Streights of the world to get six feet off the ground, or however high it is. I like it because it's unexpected and it makes for a great goal.

What about when you hit someone else's head? That's happened before, right?

That has happened before, and it fractured my face. That's a first. It was a freak thing, but all those things usually happen to me, so I wasn't very surprised.

Have you been pretty healthy, or have you fought through some injuries?

My freshman year I was out and lost my season to a Liz Frank injury, which is tearing the biggest ligament in your foot. It's a pretty common injury for male football or basketball players, but not for women soccer players; but, of course, that happened to me. But, I was so thankful for that because it taught me so much. I was able to sit on the sidelines and see the game from a different perspective. It also made me work a lot harder and kind of rejuvenated my passion for the game.

Tell me about your leadership role on the team and how important it is.

I'm just so lucky and blessed to have the group of girls that I do, and being voted as captain is just such an honor. Alongside Rachel Lenz and Meghan Streight is a great group of captains, and we'll do whatever it takes to fight for our team and back our team up. It's been an awesome experience for me, and I'm just glad that I was put in that position. It's a very comfortable position for me and I enjoy being a leader on the team and knowing that they trust me on and off the field to be a leader.

What's your favorite part about being an Aggie?

I guess the reputation of Texas A&M. Everyone just comes here and thinks we are the coolest people ever. We are so different and weird, but I love all of the traditions. Just being able to say that I'm an Aggie. Going back home, people are like, "You go to Texas A&M?" and I'm like, "Yeah, I know, right!" Proud to be an Aggie!

"Shea's stepped up to every challenge that we've ever given her. Whether she's been on the front line centrally, out wide, or now with her in a position as an attacking mid-fielder, she's never hung her head or wondered why we would give her these challenges. All she's done is step up and embrace them. We give her these challenges because we know she can do it, that's she's special, and that she's a game changer no matter where she is on the field." -Coach G

When you're on the field being a vocal leader, what are some of the things you say that help the team?

I try to just be that refocusing leader, who after they score, or we score, just helps them refocus and fight through the little pieces of adversity during the game. I just try to say, "We have got to stay strong for however many minutes we have left," or, "No one scores on us." We came up with our own little chant that we were refusing to lose, can't be beat, won't be beat. So, I try to yell those things out as a little reminder to stay focused the whole game, because it's tough. It's a 90-minute game, you get off track, and one little breakdown leads to a loss.

When the ball comes to you, it's almost like it speeds up. You can actually hear the crowd get excited because you have the ball. You see people stand up. Do you know that's happening? Can you tell that when the ball comes to you, the game speeds up and it's almost like you're on a different speed than the other players?

Watching film a little bit, I can see it a little more, but when I get the ball I kind of feel that too; like go-go-go, I just get super excited. It's a good feeling, but it's kind of the style of play that I've always played, just a fast, quick game. Having people chase me, and running at people, because no one likes that.

Tell me your favorite victory thing that you do after you score a goal.

I'm definitely the jumper! Everyone on the team is like, "Okay, Shea scored, just be ready to be jumped on!" Annie and I haven't gotten to do it that much this year just because she's been injured, but we have our own little signature celebration where we jump up and hit hips which is kind of cool; makes for a good shot.

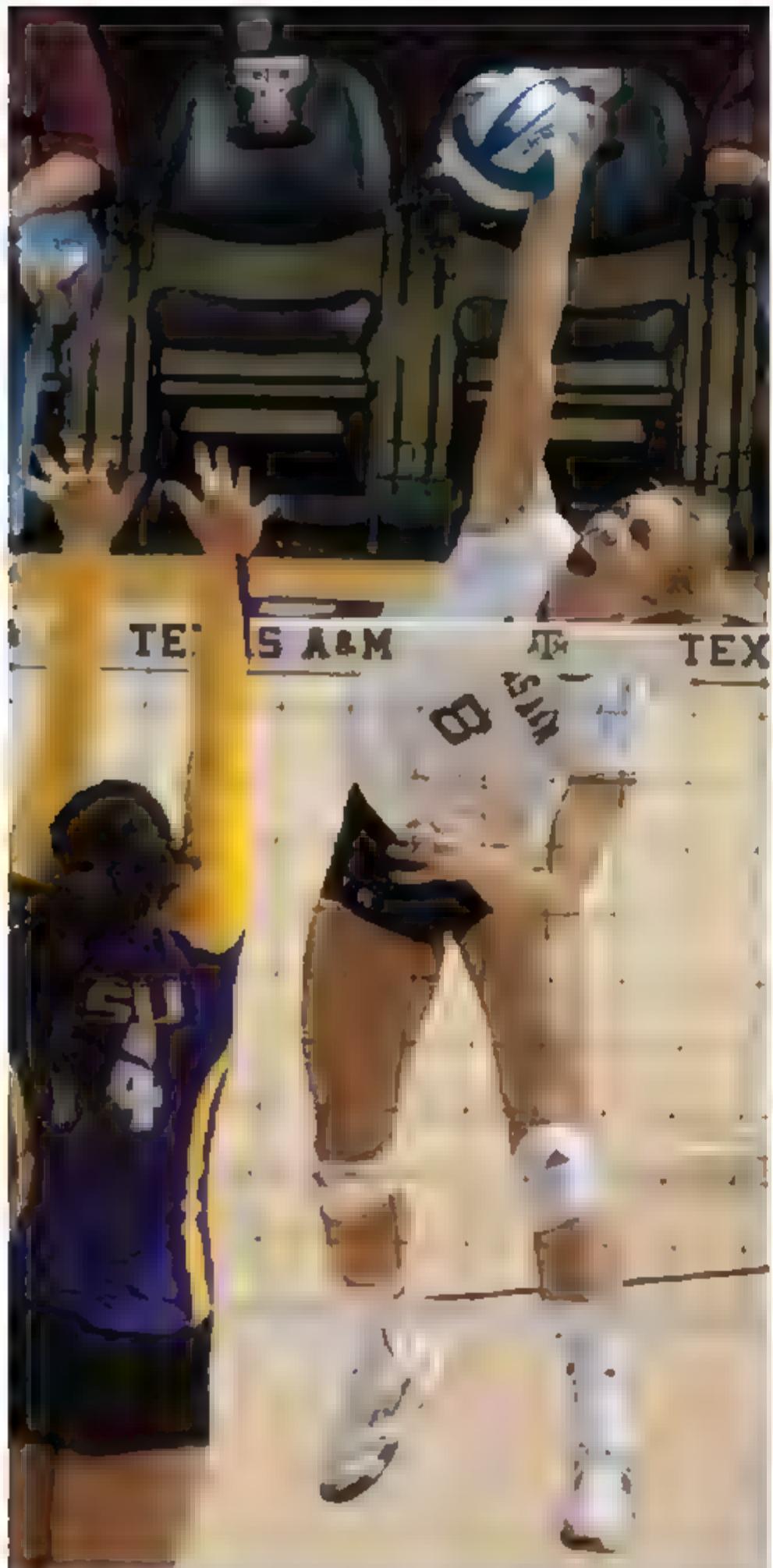
Goals early on were at a premium, but over the last couple of weeks you all have really been scoring a lot of goals. Can you tell me what the difference is?

I think that at the beginning of the season, we were just trying to figure out what works best and the chemistry, and Phil and G made a lot of changes regarding positions; now it has been a little bit consistent for a couple weeks. So, I think it has just really opened up the floodgates. Once we get one goal, we know that we are going to get more. Despite the last weekend, we weren't being scored on and we were a great defensive team, which only fuels us on offense as well. I think over the last couple of weeks, we have just been able to get a little more chemistry and understand each other better, so it's been good and I hope the goals keep coming.

What's been your favorite game so far?

The Arkansas game was pretty sweet. It was just awesome to see our team be so resilient and just know that we weren't going to lose that game. A lot of games I would say, "Okay, we're losing 3-1, this is going to be tough," but the whole game I just had this feeling that it was fine, that this team is strong enough to do this. Coming back from that kind of deficit I think just gives us a lot of motivation and confidence for the rest of the year.





Angela **LOWAK** Brings "**KILL"ER** Attitude to Aggie Team

BY ROB HAVENS '88

When did you start playing volleyball?

I started playing whenever I was in second grade. I was really young. I started doing the CYO, which is a church league, and then I started club when I was 12. So I kind of just followed the trend of the 12s and club all the way through.

Have you always been kind of tall?

Yeah, I was always super tall. I remember when I went into fifth grade, I kid you not, I was 5'0" and came out 5'8". So, that was the biggest change. But, yeah, I was always tall, and whenever I was younger I was the kid that did literally everything. "Mom, I want voice lessons. Mom, I want to try hip-hop." She always let me do everything, so volleyball was one of those things that I wanted to try and it just kind of stuck. Basketball was my first love, I guess you'd say, so I had to choose between them in high school.

You've always been on the left side?

I was in the middle because I was so tall whenever I was younger, but other than that, it's always left.

When you go up and hit the ball, there's lots of pace. Is that natural?

Yeah! I mean the coaches are always saying, "Angela, finesse! Finesse!" I'm just so powerful and explosive; that's just the player I am, and they try to work that short court kind of game into my skills.

Knowing the philosophy of the game, are there times when the coaches design what is going to work best?

Yeah, there's definitely more that goes into it than just getting up there. But just really seeing the block is huge, and the defense. Before matches they will say, "Lines open, they don't play defense on the line," so I just kind of keep that in the back of my mind. But a lot of the time, I like to let it naturally happen; you know, not force anything. I like to stay loose on the court.

Without telling us what the Aggies do strategy-wise, tell us how the strategy of a volleyball game works.

We start out with film usually two days before a game. We look at the other team's rotations, hitters, where they're hitting, and their defense, and kind of get a feel for it. That's all on paper, and we'll look at that, then watch video and see it. Sometimes in practice, one side will imitate the other team, like a scout team. Of course, we always have to make adjustments. I mean, we are all college athletes; they can change as well, and make adjustments, so we will have to adjust to those and respond.

After each point you all get together. Is that to talk strategy or just to cheer each other on? Let our readers know what happens inside of a huddle.

Usually, it's just lots of excitement to get the team going and excited. Sometimes one person will see something that another person doesn't see, pull them aside and say, "this is open," or "technique-wise, keep your head up," or something like that. Other than that, it's really just to come together, refocus on the team, bring the team together, and discuss the next play.

Tell me how your leadership has developed.

I think our team captains and seniors are doing a great job, really, off the court and on. I think I lead more in my confidence and not directly to the team, but right now it's just like showing the team that it's going to be okay, we have to keep going, we have to finish this drill, I'm just leading by example at this point.

Your bio says that you want to go to medical school and practice medicine overseas?

Yes! I'm in the business honors program right now, which is kind of weird, because everyone wants to be a finance major or an accountant. My sister's in PA school and my mom is a nurse practitioner; I've always liked science and it's kind of been around my family, so I couldn't really decide when I came to college which route I wanted to go. My dad was in business, and I have always had that leadership and competitive side in me that likes things about business. But, I couldn't decide, so I'm keeping my options open. I'll take the classes and pre-reqs for medical school but will be in business school. Over the summer, though, it kind of became clear; I realized that I wanted to incorporate both of them, and I want to provide health care in underdeveloped countries or distribute medicine. So, I want to use the business principles that I learn and incorporate them with what I learn in medical school.

You're second in kills on the team? Yeah, I guess! I don't know!

I saw in your bio that you would like to be on the Amazing Race. Who on the team would you like to join you?

Hannah Hood. Hannah Hood is just very wise and very composed. We did a sand tournament together this past summer and I loved being her partner. We also did the ultimate training camp, which is through Athletes in Action; it is a week-long program in Fort Collins at Colorado State University. They put you through the most physically and emotionally enduring challenge that I have ever been a part of. It's about 22 hours long and is just constant activity through the night. At the same time, it teaches you how to incorporate Christ into your sport. It's really emotionally and physically hard. Just going through that with her, we are able to connect on such a deep level. So, I would love to go with her; she's a lot of fun.

Do you have any pre-game superstitions or things you like to do to prepare for a match?

I don't have any superstitions. I really like to narrow my focus, and usually I'll pray and get focused on the Lord right before I play. We also have a bunch of team traditions that we do beforehand, but that's personally the only thing I do.

Tell us about Coach Corbelli.

She's a great coach. I've learned so much from her. She's awesome. She listens to the players a lot. I've never had a coach care so much about what the players think and the team dynamics, so it's really awesome.

One of the things Coach Corbelli mentioned in an interview is that when this team scores a couple of points, you all feel like you're the national champions, can't be beat; but whenever you lose a couple, it's like, "Oh, no!" Do you feel a change in that? Do you think that you all are growing up as a team?

Oh yeah! We are growing up right now! Just looking at our record, it's been a tough season because we started so strongly and now we've hit this wall that we can't get past. But we are definitely learning a lot. There are a lot of girls on our team that won a national championship in club, and we all come from great programs, so it's been instilled in us to win and that we're the best. But now it's not happening, and I feel like everyone has to come to this point at some time in their career; just keep a very open perspective about it and know that only positives are going to come from it. We just can't dwell on it; we have to continue to get better every day.

Do you feel that's the mentality of the team?

Laurie is doing a great job as a coach, honestly. I can't imagine being in her position right now; she is managing this team and keeping our spirits up, but at the same time is demanding more from us. She is just doing a great job balancing it. We just had practice and were doing a lot of competitive drills, and everyone still has that fight in them; so, I think we are fighting through it, and I'm hoping very soon that we will emerge into the light.



12TH MAN



1. TRIBUTE TO THE 12TH MAN



4. TRIBUTE TO THE 1975
WIN OVER TEXAS (in progress)



6. TRIBUTE TO THE 1999
BONFIRE GAME



2. TRIBUTE TO THE 1939
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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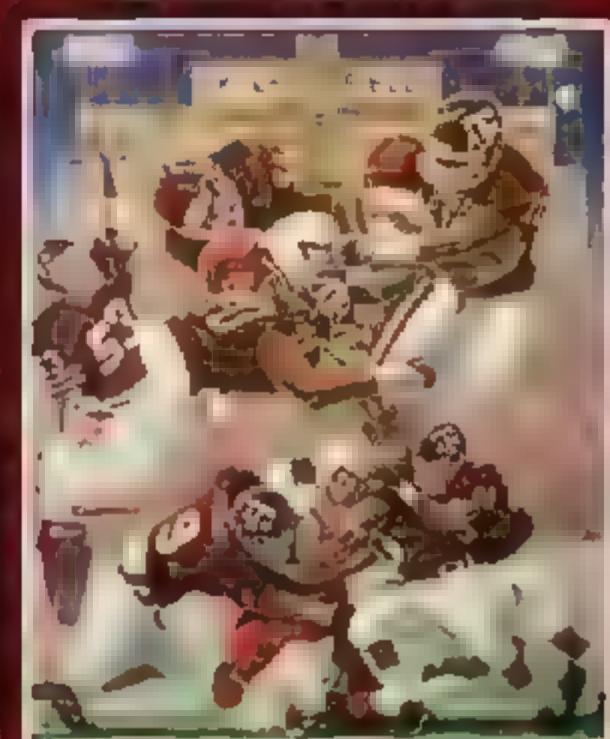
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Benjamin Knox's "Kyle Field Great Moments"

BY ROB HAVENS '88

As the football season comes to an end and the Aggies finish up their home schedule, Saturday, November 9th will be a historic day as the Kyle Field we all know and love will be transformed into a new and improved Kyle Field. With the last whistle signaling the end of the game, and the exit of the teams and fans, bulldozers and construction workers will take over the hallowed grounds, leaving the Aggie family to reminisce over the history and memories they shared over the decades as they cheered on their favorite team. Benjamin Knox '90 has chronicled some of those nostalgic memories in a series of original prints called "Kyle Field Great Moments." We sat down with Knox to find out more about these paintings that were introduced to fans on the jumbotron during this season's home games.

Knox told AI that the project was the brainchild of Athletic Director Eric Hyman. "He wanted to do something that would commemorate all the great moments, and I had wanted to do something as well. It just all came together at the same time." A daunting task to take on in July before the season started would require Knox to produce each piece to be previewed at each home football game, requiring 120-250 hours per piece to create these beautiful works of art.

Knox assembled a committee to brainstorm about what were the most important moments at Kyle Field, even enlisting the help of Billy Pickard—arguably the most knowledgeable team member, having seen in person over sixty years of Aggie football at Kyle—at a few of the meetings.

The team Knox assembled looked at lots of video footage while Benjamin took notes, and they came up with a concept. Knox then produced a series of concept sketches that he presented to the committee. Gathering input and tweaking a thing or two, the committee developed a game plan with A&M Sports Properties and Aggie Athletics to create a presentation on the jumbotron; the charcoal sketches were turned into video images, and the final pieces were then shown, capturing the great moments in Kyle Field history.

Knox, who has been shooting games on the sidelines for seventeen years, was able to research his own archives and paintings he had done in the past to generate the concepts for the new pieces. His love for A&M, along with his desire for accuracy and great detail, have inspired him to share the history of Kyle, Aggie Football and the Aggie Family. "My goal is that the entire body of work is dynamic and that all (of the pieces) are at the same level. That's the reason why I'm still going back and, even now, touching them up. If something's not completely where I want it to be, I'm going to continue to add onto it."

Knox plans to offer a very limited edition (250) of 16" x 20" giclée prints on canvas of each piece. He also plans to create special collectible portfolios, approximately 10" x 14" in size, with each containing all eight signed and numbered prints, along with historical information. The portfolios will be available the first or second week of December.

Knox wrapped up our interview by saying, "The goal in talking with the board of regents and with the people at A&M is that all of the originals I'm creating will end up in the new Kyle Field Museum as a backdrop for all of the sports memorabilia. This entire project is going toward that, so in 2015 when the new Kyle Field is open, all of these original paintings will be in the museum."



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TRIATHLON CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Arguably, the best athletes in the world are triathletes. Pushing their bodies to extreme limits on a single day when the gun goes off, they race into the cold water for a long swim and emerge to jump on a bike for a treacherous ride that is followed by an exhausting run. It's a race that separates the men from the boys and the women from the girls. Many top athletes are competing to win, but in this race, just finishing is a huge success.

The Aggie Triathlon Club started in the fall of 2003 with a membership of just over ten students. President Sean Chang '13 says, "We have grown steadily into one of the largest collegiate triathlon teams in the nation with over 160 members each year. The club includes both undergrad and graduate students who have a love of the sport of triathlon." Sean continued, "Our athletes compete all over the United States and at all levels of ability. Some members join the team without ever having raced a triathlon, while others are veterans with Ironman finishes." The Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride, and a marathon 26.2-mile run.

So far this year, Texas A&M has dominated the collegiate racing scene with male, female and overall team titles at all three conference races thus far. Athletes in the club train anywhere from five to twenty-five hours per week. Chang says, "It's a different sport than others; hard work and dedication pay off more than simply being 'gifted' does." Sean says the best thing about being on the team is the camaraderie and all the smiles! It's a great club for those who want to stay active and compete at the next level.



Those who would like to provide financial support to help the club fund scholarships, equipment, travel and entry fees, and more may donate to the Texas A&M Triathlon Club Endowment. Visit recsports.tamu.edu/development/giving_back.stm for more information.

TRAP AND SKEET CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Baseball, football and hunting are three things that most Texas-born students have grown up around or participated in from the time they were kids. In Texas, waking up that first morning of hunting season is quite like waking up on Christmas morning. The memories and stories derived from spending time with family and friends on a lease somewhere produces lifelong remembered moments. There's nothing like the adrenalin created from the anticipation of firing off that first shell or the smell of gun powder after a successful shot.

Many members of the Texas A&M Trap and Skeet Club have hunted all of their lives and simply want to come out, have fun, and learn to shoot better in the process. Others have been shooting

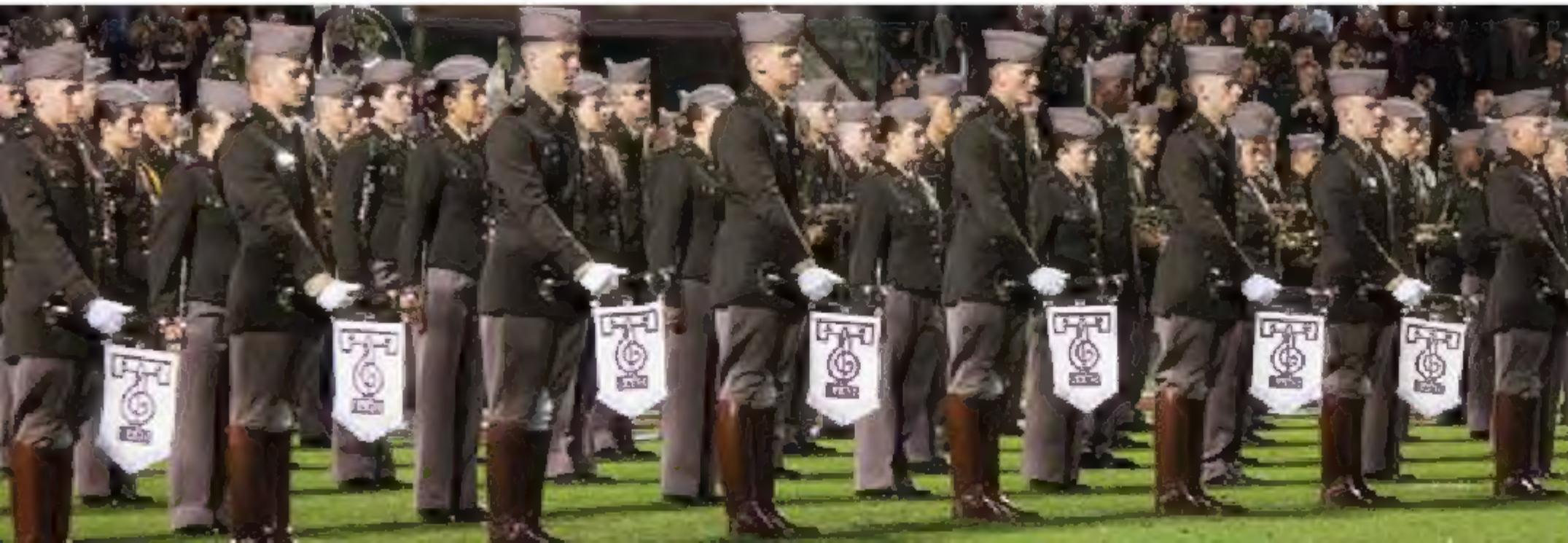
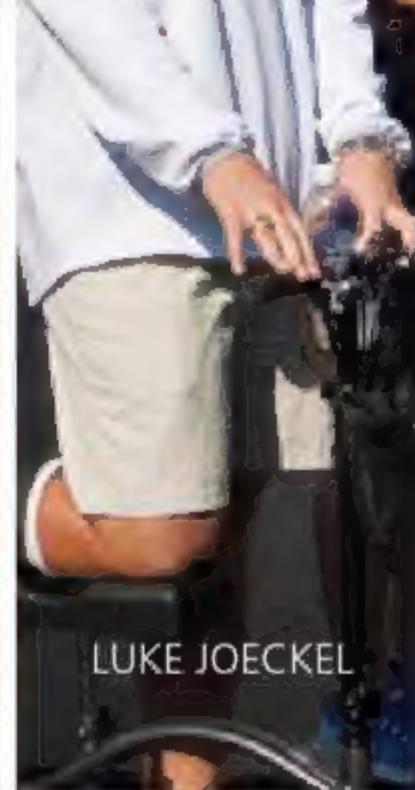
competitively for a while and want to join A&M's traveling competition team.

The art of trap and skeet shooting requires precision, great hand/eye coordination, good reflexes, and the physical capabilities required to handle a shotgun. The Aggies have over sixty paying members on this year's club team. They practice twice per week for approximately three hours. The members vary in skill level, but the president of the club, Tyler Martin '13, says, "We won't turn someone away if they've never shot before."

Tyler told AI, "The club started in 1973 with the sole intent to promote shotgun shooting sports and to teach gun and range safety and etiquette and shotgun shooting skills." Now the club travels around the country competing at the national level. There are tryouts for the travel team, and members that go to Nationals must shoot 97/100. Aside from supplemental funding provided by the University, nearly all of the funding for the club is generated through fundraisers.

For forty years, the Trap and Skeet Club has been bringing Aggies together, teaching, improving, competing and winning intercollegiate competitions all over the country.







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